

**TALBOT COUNTY HUNGER COALITION**  
**March 2017**  
**Coalition Connections**



[Feedtalbot.org](http://Feedtalbot.org)



**Take A Bite Out of Hunger**

**Next meeting of the Hunger Coalition Board:  
Wednesday, April 5, 9 a.m. at Board of Ed Building, Easton**

**Jan Willis Steps Down from TFN**

We are sorry to see Jan Willis, Coordinator of Talbot Family Network, the mother ship of our Coalition, step down after six years at the helm. But she is ready to move on to nurture and grow other areas of her life. But we welcome Katie Savon of Healthy Talbot as she becomes the interim coordinator of TFN, knowing from our work with her at Healthy Talbot that she will do a bang-up job.

Jan left her imprint on TFN as a dynamic agent for change and action, but we in the Coalition also owe her a great big thanks. Without Jan, there would not have been a Coalition.

Back in the summer of 2014, she convened Talbot's food pantries, meal providers and concerned citizens to become a unified movement in the battle against hunger. Her vision was for awareness to be created on three fronts:

1. Amongst pantries and meal providers to help each other;

2. Amongst the community that needs food and doesn't know where to turn;

3. And amongst the public, which often assumes that a wealthy county like Talbot doesn't have a hunger problem.

Her dream is now our reality. Today 25 organizations make up our Coalition as well as many participating social agencies.

And it is thanks to Jan, that through a grant, the Governor's Office on Children made it possible for us to have a nutrition and gardening specialist to work with our pantries.

Without Jan's drive and dedication to make the Coalition happen, we would not have the impact we have had. We would have been doing our job, of course, but it took one woman's vision to see our real potential.

Thank you, Jan, from all of us! ~ Catherine

### **2017 Food Stamp Challenge Ends:**

On Tuesday, February 28, the Talbot County Council declared last week as Hunger Awareness Week. Then on Wednesday, March 1, at the Easton Public Library, we held a roundtable discussion with the public about hunger in Talbot and the challenge of actually taking the Challenge.

On Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Challenge officially ended. We heard from many people about what they found difficult to do from shopping on \$33 to making nutritious yet filling meals to gaining weight to running out of money. The more people learn about SNAP, the more supportive they are of the program, seeing it in a whole new light and why it's a lifeline to those in need.

Thanks to everyone who participated. If you didn't or couldn't take part, then donate \$33 to your local food pantry, the amount you would have spent on food if you had taken the challenge.

### **Empty Bowls — Susan DuPont & Anne Harding:**

#### **A REPORT FROM EMPTY BOWLS**

"We sold out for the 9th year, selling 360 tickets: 328 purchased and 32 used by sponsors. (We offer each sponsor 2 free tickets.) No final numbers just yet, but we hope to at least match the \$25,796 raised last year." They expect to match last year's total.

"Everything is volunteer and/or donated: businesses donate in kind, restaurants and some individuals donate soup, all the cookies are donated including by the Easton High School Culinary Group, Panera Bread has donated bread for years and, new this year, Olive Gardens gave us breadsticks!

"This year we had 29 sponsors who gave either as a \$ 250+ Cup of soup sponsor, \$500+ Bowl of Soup Sponsor, or \$1,000+ Crock Pot sponsor, totaling approximately \$15,000. A portion of their funds pay our only expense, an administration fee to a much appreciated partner, MidShore Community Foundation. We welcome donations anytime and distribute once a year in early

April.

"We also, as we have in the past, will be selling bowls at the Farmers Market for \$10. All the funds raised from there go to our pantries. We will be there May 13th (the day before Mother's Day) and May 27th (the Saturday before Memorial Day). I will let you know other dates as we get them. We are also glad to display any literature you have at the time."

### **Neighborhood Service Center — Marilyn Neal:**

#### **FREE CHICKENS FOR ALL OF THE PARTNERS!**

NSC has always been a hub for caring for the community in need and many of the Coalition partners have been able to get food and clothes for their folks from the Center.

Now, thanks to the generosity of a large farmer/distributor, the NSC is receiving thousands of pounds of poultry a week. In the last three weeks, NSC has received 10,000 pounds of chicken, turkey, and Cornish hens. And more is coming this week.

Marilyn is encouraging every food pantry and meal provider to contact NSC so you are able to get how much ever you need to your pantry. The days of delivery vary, but just call the NSC and you will be set up to take back cases of chicken. You will need freezer/refrigerator space and volunteers to repackage the poultry and store it. But this is a bonanza for all of us. Please take advantage of this great offer. Like all of you, Marilyn's goal is "to feed all the people who need it," and she wants to share her windfall with our Coalition partners.

**Call: 410-822-5015**

#### **REFRIGERATED TRUCK NEEDED**

However, to get those chickens from the distributor in Delaware to Talbot means a refrigerated truck will be needed for the warmer months coming up. If you know of anyone who could donate a refrigerated truck to NSC, let Marilyn know. She does not want to stop delivery in the summer, especially when that is when kids are home and more food is needed for many families.

**Call: 410-822-5015**

### **TIS News — Julie Lowe:**

#### **LOOKING TO EXPAND**

"The shelter at Easton's Promise is almost full, with another family scheduled to come in soon. That will mean we are helping three families and three single men at Easton's Promise and four families in our transitional housing (as of March 6). The board has set a goal of four more transitional apartments in the community in the next two years, so if anyone knows of any landlords who would be interested in having TIS as their very responsible tenant, while we sublet to our "vetted" prospective tenant families, please let me know. Email: [julielowe666@gmail.com](mailto:julielowe666@gmail.com)

"We are also looking for a few energetic board members come June, and would invite applications if anyone is interested in helping our struggling neighbors with our Shelter, Stabilize, Support and Success program. It is so

gratifying!!”

**Agape Ministry — Linda Prochaska:**

**FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS FOR YOUR PANTRIES**

“The Agape Ministry will provide as many books as any pantry would like to distribute, plus a milk crate to store and display them in. We will make regular deliveries of books as requested. We only ask that the books be given to children or parents to take home and keep. Interested pantries can call me at **410 924-3895.**”

**Talbot County Brookletts Place Senior Center — Meals On Wheels:**

Meals are delivered to qualified homebound or incapacitated residents.

Call **410-822-2869 x 225** — 8:00 to 3:00 Mondays – Fridays for additional information. Cheryl Knopf is the new director of Meals On Wheels

**Brookletts Place Senior Center**

Lunch is served to seniors 60 years of age or older for a suggested donation of \$2.75. No one is turned away due to inability to pay

12 noon, every Monday – Thursday. Call **410-822-2869** for more info.

**Talbot Village Connections — Lee Newcomb:**

TVC will be hosting its Second Annual Senior Summit: Growing Older and Loving It on Thursday, June 8 from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at the Talbot Community Center on Route 50. Encourage your senior clients to attend. It is \$10 for seniors to attend and includes breakfast and lunch. The topics include downsizing and moving to medical advances to prescription drug abuse.

For more information, contact Lee Newcomb at

**[lee.newcomb@maryland.gov](mailto:lee.newcomb@maryland.gov)**

**SEE YOU ALL ON APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>!  
GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING WITH HC!**